

PATENT SPECIFICATION



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527,718

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Complete Specification Accepted: Oct. 15, 1940.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to Instrument Panels for use on Motor Vehicles and for other like Purposes

We, JOSEPH LUCAS LIMITED, a Company duly incorporated under the Laws of Great Britain, of Great King Street, in the City of Birmingham, 19, and
 5 HORACE HENRY FOXALL, a British Subject, of the Company's address, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention relates more particularly to the panels used for mounting indicating instruments, switches, signals lamps, and other like accessories (herein generically described as fittings) on the dash boards of motor vehicles.

At the present time the fittings mounted on a panel are made complete in themselves and each is secured behind an aperture in the panel by appropriate fastenings.

The object of the present invention is to effect economy and simplification in the manufacture of such fittings and panels.

The invention consists of a panel adapted to provide the housings or enclosures or other essential parts of some or all of the fittings.

In one manner of carrying the invention into effect, we mould the panel from synthetic resin or analogous thermoplastic material, and on its rear or front side, or both rear and front side, we form adjacent to each of a number of apertures in the panel a hollow projection

adapted to form the housing or body part of a fitting. The fitting may consist of an electrical indicating instrument, oil or petrol gauge, clock, warning lamp, switch or the like.

The fittings themselves are not, as hitherto, each made complete in itself, but each consists of its main parts less its ordinary casing or housing, this latter being provided by the panel. Moreover, some of the other essential parts of the fittings such as terminals may be arranged in or on the panel. Also each such housing may have its rear side closed by a separate cover piece which may serve to hold the fitting in position and may also have combined with it one or more of the component parts of the fitting.

It will be understood from the foregoing that instead of as heretofore making the fittings and panel each complete in itself, the panel forms integral parts of some or all of the fittings mounted on it. By the invention we are therefore able to simplify and effect important economies in the manufacture of the fittings and panels.

Whilst primarily intended for use on the dash boards of motor vehicles it is not limited thereto, as it is also applicable to the instrument panels of air and water craft, and to other like uses.

Dated this 12th day of April, 1939.

MARKS & CLERK.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to Instrument Panels for use on Motor Vehicles and for other like Purposes

We, JOSEPH LUCAS LIMITED, a Company duly incorporated under the Laws of Great Britain, of Great King Street, in the City of Birmingham, 19, and
 70 HORACE HENRY FOXALL, a British Subject, of the Company's address, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates more particularly
 [Price 1/-]

particularly to the panels used for mounting indicating instruments, switches, signals lamps, and other like accessories (herein generically described as fittings) on the dash boards of motor vehicles.

At the present time the fittings mounted on a panel are made complete in themselves, each having its own housing or enclosure and being secured behind an aperture in the panel by appropriate fastenings.

The object of the present invention is

to effect economy and simplification in the manufacture of such fittings and panels.

The invention consists of a panel adapted to provide the housings or enclosures of some or all of the fittings.

In the accompanying sheet of explanatory drawings, Figure 1 is a rear view of an instrument panel constructed in accordance with the invention for use on the dash board of a motor vehicle, and Figure 2 is a sectional plan taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

In carrying the invention into effect as shown, we mould the panel *a* from synthetic resin or analogous plastic material, and on its rear side we form a plurality of hollow projections which are indicated respectively by *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, and *g*. These hollow projections are each adapted to form a housing or enclosure of a fitting required to be carried by the panel *a*. Thus, the projections *b* to *g* may serve respectively as housings or enclosures for a speedometer, a combined petrol gauge-oil gauge-ammeter, an ignition switch, a clock, an ignition warning lamp, and a direction indicator warning lamp. Each of the projections *b* to *g* surrounds or is situated adjacent to an aperture as *h* in the panel *a*, and some of these apertures may be fitted with a transparent or translucent window as *i*.

Instead of being formed on the rear side of the panel the projections above described may be formed on the front side, or on both the rear and front sides, of the panel.

The above mentioned fittings themselves are not, as hitherto, each made complete in itself, but may each consist of its main parts less its ordinary casing or housing, this latter being provided by the corresponding projection on the panel. Moreover, some of the other essential parts of the fittings such as terminals may be arranged in or on the panel.

In the example shown each of the hollow projections *b* to *g* has its rear side closed by a separate cover piece as *j* which may serve to hold the corresponding fitting in position and may also have combined with it one or more of the component parts of the fitting. Also the panel *a* has formed on its rear side a pair of projections *k* through each of which and the panel is formed a hole for accommodating the operating stem *m* of a lighting switch, the terminals *n* and fixed contacts *o* of this switch being mounted on the rear side of or moulded in the corresponding projection *k*. Further the

panel *a* is formed with an aperture *p* for affording access to a pocket in the dash board on which the panel is to be mounted.

It will be understood from the foregoing that instead of as heretofore making the fittings and panel each complete in itself, the panel forms integral parts of some or all of the fittings mounted on it. By the invention we are therefore able to simplify and effect important economies in the manufacture of the fittings and panels.

Whilst primarily intended for use on the dash boards of motor vehicles it is not limited thereto, as it is also applicable to the instrument panels of air and water craft, and to other like uses.

The invention is not limited to the example above described as the number, form, and arrangement of the projections on the panel may be varied to suit requirements.

We are aware that it has already been proposed to provide an aluminium or other casing which is adapted to be mounted on the upper end of the steering column of a motor vehicle, and to accommodate in separate cells the recording instruments, such as the speedometer, clock, ammeter and pressure gauge, usually mounted on the dash-board of the vehicle, the casing being formed with webs which serve as indexes for the control levers mounted on the steering column.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. For use in mounting fittings on a support, such as the dash board of a motor vehicle, a panel adapted to provide the housings or enclosures of some or all of the fittings.

2. A panel as and for the purpose claimed in Claim 1 and made from synthetic resin or analogous plastic material.

3. A panel as and for the purpose claimed in Claims 1 and 2, in which the housings or enclosures for the fittings comprise hollow projections formed on the rear or front side, or both the rear or front sides, of the panel around apertures in the panel.

4. A panel as and for the purpose claimed in Claim 1 and constructed substantially as described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 25th day of January, 1940.
MARKS & CLERK.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

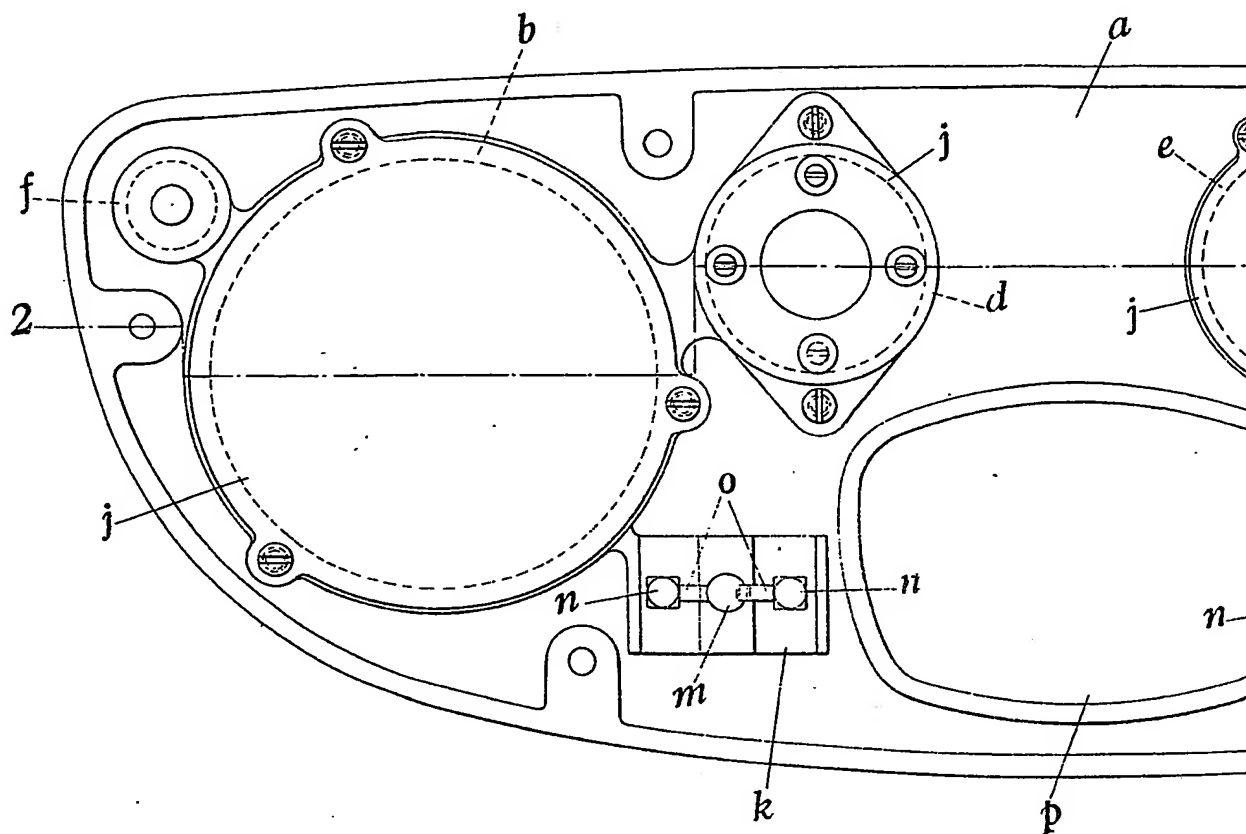


Fig.1

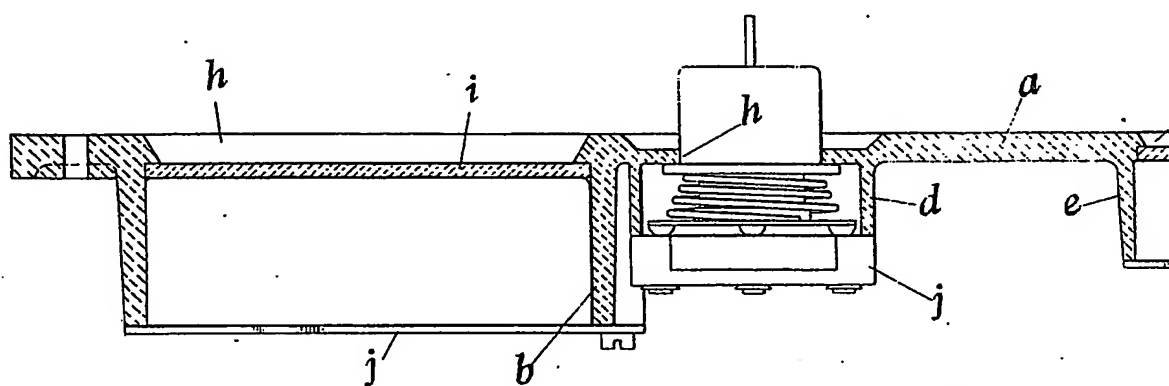


Fig.2

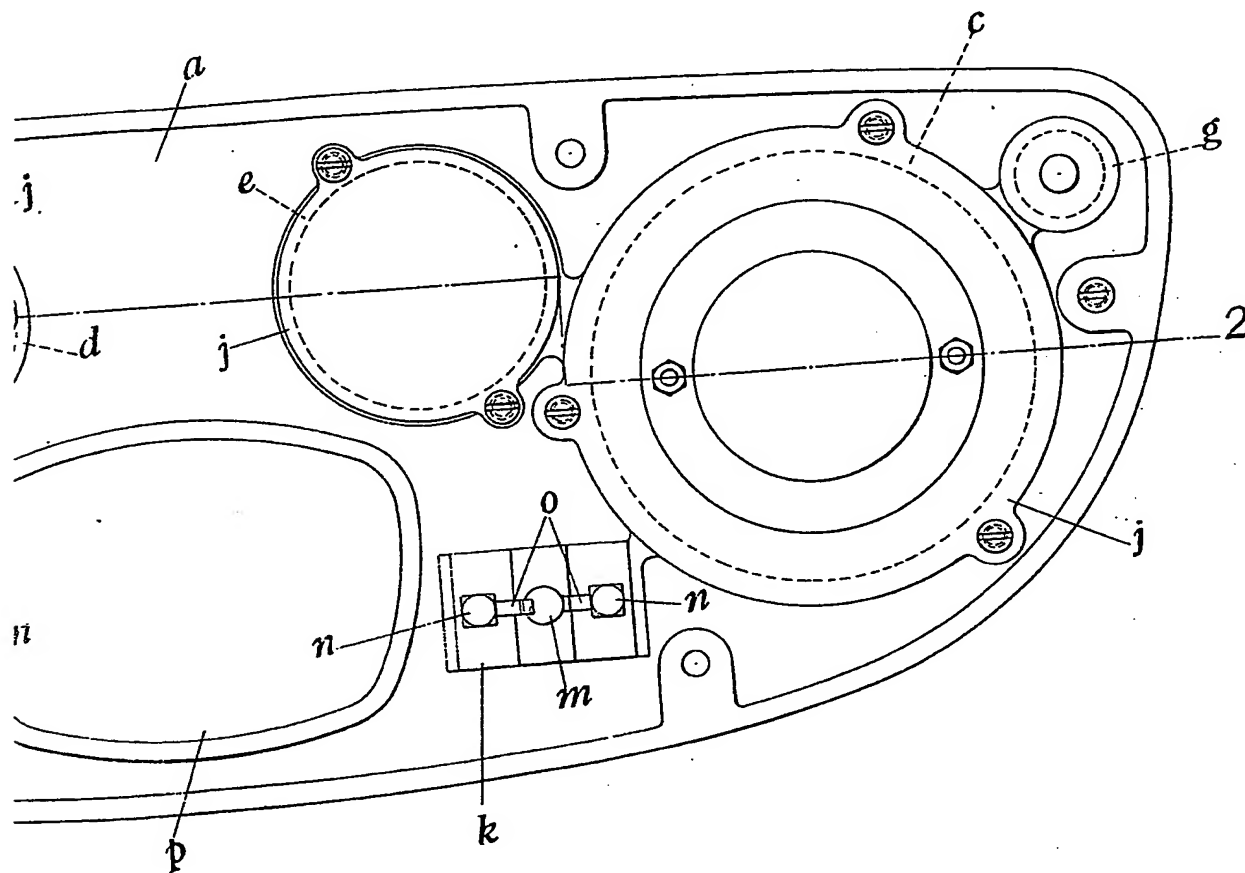


Fig. 1

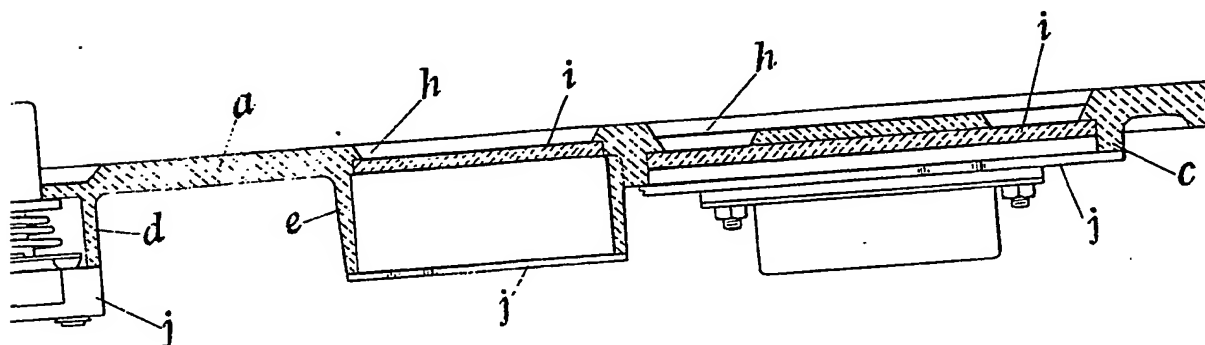


Fig. 2

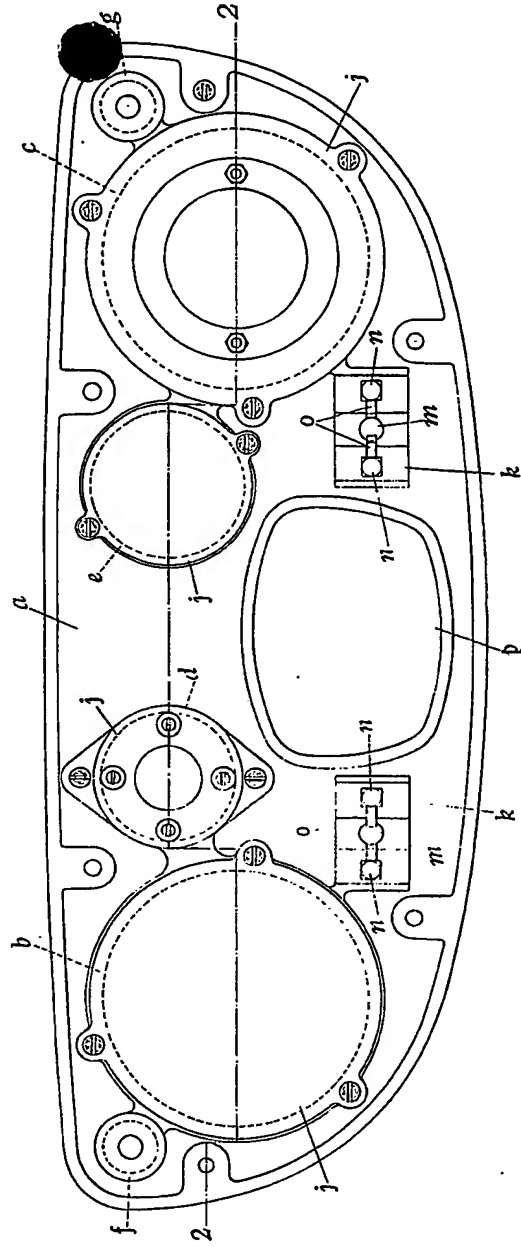


Fig. 1

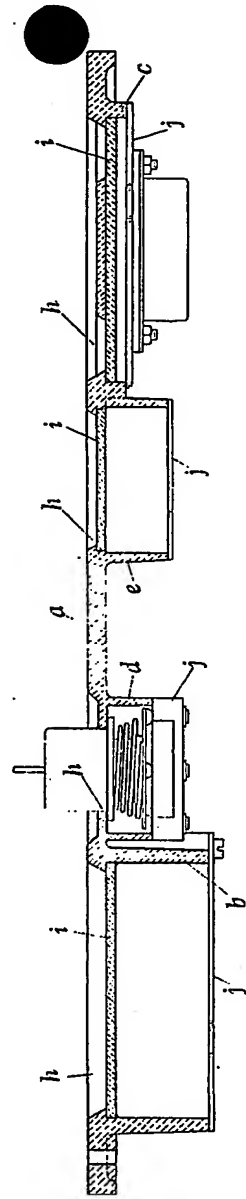


Fig. 2

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]